

HJ 49 (Thomas) -- Study Distributed Renewable Energy

Information Provided by Patrick Judge, MEIC, 443-2520

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69-8-601. Legislative findings. The legislature finds that it is in the public interest to promote net metering because it:

- (1) encourages private investment in renewable energy resources;
- (2) stimulates Montana's economic growth; and
- (3) enhances the continued diversification of the energy resources used in Montana.

69-8-604. Net metering system -- reliability and safety. (1) A net metering system used by a customer-generator must include, at the customer-generator's own expense, all equipment necessary to meet applicable safety, power quality, and interconnection requirements established by the national electrical code, national electrical safety code, institute of electrical and electronic engineers, and underwriters laboratories.

(2) The commission, after appropriate notice and opportunity for comment, may adopt by rule additional safety, power quality, and interconnection requirements for customer-generators that the commission or the local governing body determines are necessary to protect public safety and net metering system reliability.

69-8-1002. Findings. The legislature finds that:

- (1) Montana is blessed with an abundance of diverse renewable energy resources;
- (2) renewable energy production promotes sustainable rural economic development by creating new jobs and stimulating business and economic activity in local communities across Montana;
- (3) increased use of renewable energy will enhance Montana's energy self-sufficiency and independence; and
- (4) fuel diversity, economic, and environmental benefits from renewable energy production accrue to the public at large, and therefore all consumers and utilities should support expanded development of these resources to meet the state's electricity demand and stabilize electricity prices.